

Soil Health Management System

FY 2022 EQIP CIC High Priority Area

1/18/2022



Description

The High Priority Area (HPA) for a Soil Health Management System (SHMS) focuses on improving soil health by encouraging a suite of conservation practices on agricultural lands. A SHMS applies the four key soil health principles of:

- Minimize disturbance
- Maximize soil cover
- Maximize biodiversity
- Maximize presence of living roots

Improvements to soil health such as increasing organic matter, building aggregate stability, and improving soil organism habitat can be achieved over time by implementing a SHMS.

One example of a cropland SHMS might include practices such as Soil Health Testing, No Till, Conservation Crop Rotation, and Cover Crop. Utilizing Soil Health Testing establishes a benchmark condition that can assist with designing a cover crop mix based on current site conditions. The No Till practice reduces soil disturbance while Conservation Crop Rotation and Cover Crop provides soil cover and improves biodiversity. Another benefit when including Cover Crops into the SHMS is the presences of living roots is maximized.

A pasture SHMS example may include Soil Health Testing, Prescribed Grazing, Fence, Annual Forages for Grazing Systems in conjunction with Pasture and Hay Planting. Improving plant diversity, managing grazing heights and increasing rest/recovery time of pastures improves soil health. Healthier soil and plants increase water holding capacity, improve water infiltration and nutrient cycling, which all help build resiliency into a grazing system.

The focus area for this HPA covers the entire state of Missouri targeting the land uses of crop and pasture.

The conservation practices available within this HPA address resource concerns such as aggregate instability, compaction, organic matter depletion, and degradation of soil organism habitat. Addressing these resource concerns can also provide a positive impact on water quality, soil erosion, and wildlife.

Geography

Statewide

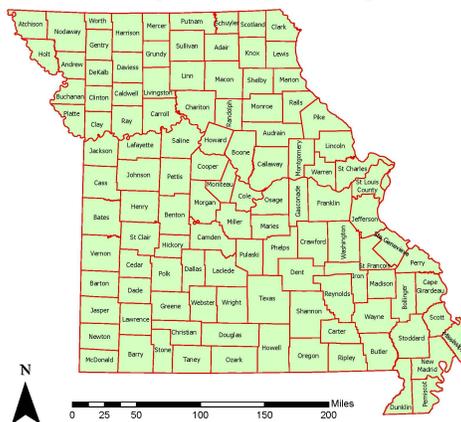
Land Uses

1. Cropland
2. Pasture

Priority Resource Concerns

1. Soil quality limitations

Soil Health Management System High Priority Areas



What is EQIP CIC?

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program Conservation Incentive Contract (EQIP-CIC) allows producers to target priority resource concerns on their property by offering annual incentive payments for key practices. These identified practices, along with supporting practices, address the implementation, adoption, management, and maintenance needed for producers to build on their current level of conservation and see the benefits of longer-term conservation.

EQIP-CIC can be a stepping-stone between the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). EQIP-CIC offers a unique opportunity for a 5 year contact with an annual payment, without enrolling the entire operation into the program. The flexibility can be a gateway to future participation in CSP enrollment and achievement of a higher level of conservation stewardship on their entire operation.

Soil Health Management System

Available Practices

The following conservation practices are available to support addressing the priority resource concern(s) for this EQIP-CIC High Priority Area.

Conservation Practices

Conservation Evaluation Monitoring Activity (CEMA)

216 - Soil Health Testing

217 - Soil and Source Testing for Nutrient Management

Primary

328 - Conservation Crop Rotation

329 - Residue and Tillage Management, No Till

340 - Cover Crop

345 - Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till

484 - Mulching

511 - Forage Harvest Management

528 - Prescribed Grazing

554 - Drainage Water Management

590 - Nutrient Management

810 - Annual Forages for Grazing Systems

Supporting

314 - Brush Management

327 - Conservation Cover

330 - Contour Farming

332 - Contour Buffer Strips

342 - Critical Area Planting (in conjunction with 378)

378 - Pond

381 - Silvopasture

382 - Fence

420 - Wildlife Habitat Planting

472 - Access Control

490 - Tree/Shrub Site Preparation

512 - Pasture and Hay Planting

516 - Livestock Pipeline

533 - Pumping Plant

561 - Heavy Use Area Protection

574 - Spring Development

578 - Stream Crossing

587 - Structure for Water Control

612 - Tree/Shrub Establishment

614 - Watering Facility

642 - Water Well

Who is eligible?

Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who own or rent agricultural land are eligible. EQIP-CIC assistance can be used on all types of agricultural operations, including:

- Conventional
- Organic
- Specialty crops
- Commodity crops
- Forestry
- Wildlife
- Livestock operations
- Historically underserved farmers*

Increased and advance payments available for historically underserved producers (beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and military veterans).

How to Apply

Apply at your local USDA Service Center, which you can find at farmers.gov/service-locator.

More Information

For more information, visit nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/.

